



Cambridge Arts Council

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The Cambridge Arts Council Announces Carolina Aragón, Winner of Public Art Commission for the Cambridge Street Corridor in East Cambridge**

Exhibition on display through June 11, 2010

CAC Gallery, Cambridge Arts Council, City Hall Annex  
344 Broadway, 2nd Floor, Cambridge

Cambridge, MA – Carolina Aragón has been selected the winner of an ideas competition for a Public Art Commission in Cambridge. Chosen from an eclectic group of proposals from ten local artists, Aragón's "Flocks" project will be a three-month long outdoor installation of reflective, abstract, soft sculpture "birds," suspended in large groups along the one mile stretch between Inman and Lechmere Squares. The project seeks to emphasize the historic and contemporary socio-economic diversity of Cambridge by celebrating and studying the theme of migration. The installation will occur in the spring of 2011.

The nine other Boston-area finalists considered for the commission were: **Dirk Adams, Halsey Burgund, Bea Camacho, Catherine D'Ignazio, John Ewing, Lisa Greenfield, Yuna Kim, Nick Rodrigues, and Hannah Verlin.** Each of these artists developed a site-specific proposal for the Cambridge Street Corridor – a one-mile stretch of Cambridge Street, spanning from Inman Square to Lechmere, a colorful section of urban activity that spans three neighborhoods. These proposals were on display from April 1 – June 11, 2010 in the exhibition "**The Cambridge Street Project**" in the CAC Gallery (344 Broadway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl., Cambridge, Mass.).

"**The Cambridge Street Project: An Ideas Exhibition**" revealed a unique approach to a public art commission that permitted a group of selected artists to develop for public viewing a concept in any of the arts and design media – visual, performing, mixed media, architectural, landscape, social, etc. Residents and visitors were encouraged to review the artists' proposals, give feedback and leave comments over the course of the exhibition. In May, a selection committee composed of the original art jury and a number of Cambridge Street residents and business owners reviewed all projects and select Aragón's project for implementation.

Important factors in the selection committee's decision were *Flocks'* potential visual impact and its ability to tie the length of the corridor together visually, combined with a strong emphasis on education and outreach, all within the underlying theme of migration that is important to the neighborhood.

**Artist Carolina Aragón's Inspiration:**

Inspired by both bird and human migrations, the project seeks to create a memorable experience that celebrates the dream that fuels long and difficult migrations and the coming together of groups to create a new life. *Flocks* acknowledges the ongoing process of migration to Cambridge. Over 25% or approximately 26,000 Cambridge residents are foreign-born. English, Irish, German, Italian and Portuguese immigrants

arrived in earlier migrations. More recent migrations have included West Indian, Latin American and Haitian residents.

A recent survey shows that the families of Cambridge Public School students speak more than 60 different languages at home. Cambridge Street is a particularly good example of the City's diverse history, with long-standing Portuguese and Italian communities centered in Inman Square, and Yiddish, Indian, Middle Eastern and Brazilian restaurants lining the route toward Lechmere Square. It is fitting that a celebration of multiple heritages coming together is located on Cambridge Street. **Flocks** celebrates the City's diverse communities and their historic and contemporary migrations.

#### **About the Artist:**

Born in Cali, Colombia, Carolina Aragón has lived and worked in Cambridge, Mass., and currently teaches architecture in Boston. Her work focuses on interior/exterior installations and paintings that explore environmental phenomena through a thorough investigation of materiality and a strong sense of craft. Carolina obtained a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Savannah College of Art and Design, and a Master in Landscape Architecture from the Harvard Design School. She migrated to the United States in 1995 and has a strong attachment to Cambridge – a place where she feels the most at home, surrounded by fellow immigrants from all over the world.

In addition to environmental phenomena, Carolina's recent work has focused on immigration. Her pieces speak of the immigrant experience as one that begins with rupture – the breaking up from one's original landscape and the process of re-creating a life in a new land. It is in this same spirit that Carolina continues to explore human migration as a source of inspiration for her artwork.

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#### **Cambridge Arts Council – *Nurturing the Arts in Cambridge***

The Cambridge Arts Council exists to ensure that the arts remain vital for people living, working and visiting Cambridge. [www.cambridgeartscouncil.org](http://www.cambridgeartscouncil.org) or 617-349-4380.

#### **Cambridge Arts Council Public Art Program**

In accordance with Cambridge's Public Art Program, one percent of construction costs for capital improvements is designated to support the inclusion of integrated, site-responsive public art. Since 1979, over 180 artworks have been commissioned into the Cambridge Public Art Collection for the enjoyment of all who live, work and visit the city.

The Cambridge Arts Council is supported in part by the City of Cambridge, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, New England Foundation for the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, and many individual and corporate donors.

**CAC Gallery** is located in the Cambridge City Hall Annex at 344 Broadway, at the corner of Broadway and Inman Street. Metered parking is available on Inman Street and Broadway.

#### **CAC Gallery hours:**

M, W: 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.; T, TH: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; F: 8:30 a.m. - Noon

**Directions via MBTA:** Take the MBTA Red Line to Central Square. At street level proceed west on Massachusetts Avenue (towards Harvard Square) to Inman Street. Turn right and proceed north for four blocks to Broadway. Turn left and walk one block to Inman Street.

CAC does not discriminate on the basis of disability. CAC will provide auxiliary aids and service, written materials in alternate formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities upon request.



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